

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

The independent claims are amended herein.

New claim 12 is added.

Support for the claim amendments and new claim is found, for example, in FIG. 5, and the disclosure on page 9, line 25, through page 10, line 4, of the specification.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-12 are currently pending.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS OVER SHARMA (USP 6,081,355) BY ITSELF OR IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER REFERENCES

Claim 1 is amended to recite time-division multiplexing the optical pulses output by said optical pulse source by branching the optical pulses output by said optical pulse source to N paths and multiplexing the branched optical pulses so as to output optical pulses with a repetition frequency which is an integral multiple of said designated repetition frequency f_0 , wherein a time difference among the respective paths is $1/(N \cdot (f_0))$, *and so that intensities and polarization states of the branched optical pulses are equal after being multiplexed.*

Please note that claim 1 is amended to clarify these features. Somewhat similar amendments are made to the other independent claims.

Support for the claim amendments is found, for example, in FIG. 5, and the disclosure on page 9, line 25, through page 10, line 4, of the specification.

None of the cited references discloses or suggests these features.

Moreover, new claim 12 recites a polarization controller through which the optical pulses output by said optical pulse source pass, and a variable optical attenuator and a variable optical delay unit arranged in each path, so that the intensities and the polarization states of the branched optical pulses are equal after being multiplexed. Support for this new claim is found, for example, in FIG. 5, and the disclosure on page 9, line 25, through page 10, line 4, of the specification. None of the cited references discloses or suggests these features.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

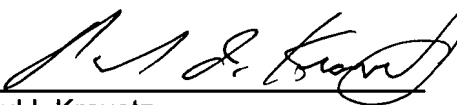
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If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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